

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

25X1A2g

COUNTRY Lebanon

SUBJECT 1. Communist and anti-Government
Activities in Lebanon

2. Communist Arms Factory at
Sin al-Fil

PLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

DATE OF INFO [REDACTED]

DATE DISTR. 13 January, 1949

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO. 25X1A2g

25X1A6a

F-3 1. There is evidence that, had the Lebanese Government not kept firm control, there might have been incidents in Lebanon similar to those which occurred in Syria in early December, although public discontent in Lebanon is not as strong as in Syria, source states. [REDACTED] there has been some cooperation between the Communists and other opposition groups in planning demonstrations in Tripoli, Lebanon; on 12 December the Lebanese Sureté quelled incipient demonstrations there. Mustafa Muqaddam (described as a follower of Karamah) was reportedly involved, but there was no evidence that 'Abd-al-Hamid Karamah, leader of the National Party, had anything to do with these disturbances. [REDACTED]

F-3 2. On 5 December 1948 at 1 a.m., in accordance with instructions from Communist Party leaders, Communists in Tripoli began to distribute tracts attacking the government, acclaiming Communist victories in China against western imperialism, and saluting the commanders of the Red Army. Night policemen took the Communists by surprise, arrested some and pursued others. Lebanese Sureté and Gendarme officials later arrested and imprisoned the Communists and raided their houses. In their efforts to find out where the tracts were printed, Sureté agents tortured certain of these persons. Large quantities of the tracts were confiscated from the house of a certain Mikhael, a Communist. A number of people in Tripoli tried to intercede for the release of these arrested persons with the Prosecutor General, but he refused to mediate, and stated that he would apply the law to anyone who disturbed public order.

F-3 3. [REDACTED] demonstrations and strikes like those of Syria would take place, as they were being planned by followers of 'Abd-al-Hamid Karamah who intended to raise Syrian, instead of Lebanese, flags, and had had large quantities of arms and explosives brought to Tripoli. Mustafa Muqaddam knew about this arms traffic, source claims.

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- C-3 4. On 5 December a number of prominent Lebanese Moslems and a group of supporters of the Grand Mufti, Hajj Amin Husayni, met at the Moslem Orphanage and discussed the question of staging demonstrations in Beirut, Tripoli, and Sidon to demand the resumption of the fighting in Palestine. Dr. Barghut, Muhammad Shakir Baydun, Farid Tayyara, and Mahmud Idrisi were appointed to contact certain Moslem and Christian organizations, in order to reach an agreement with them about making these demonstrations universal.
- C-3 5. Members of the Palestinian Futuwah Party, including Mahmud Qadiri, Rashid Husayn, Munir Sa'idi and Sa'id Nablusi, have also been in Beirut, contacting leaders of various Moslem organizations and urging them to adopt decisions to stage strikes in Beirut, Tripoli, and Sidon, and to hold anti-British, anti-American demonstrations. Strikes and demonstrations, scheduled for 5 December, were stopped by the government.
- C-3 6. At Sin al-Fil, Lebanon, there is a factory where rifles and hand grenades are manufactured under the supervision of Artin Boghosian, an Armenian Communist who went to Soviet Armenia, stayed there several months and then returned to Lebanon. [REDACTED] Communists built this factory to provide arms for their fellow members. One section of the factory was formerly operated just outside of Beirut, but now all the work is carried on at Sin al-Fil, where police surveillance is lax. The factory is located in the basement of a building which was previously used by Moses Kandakjian, who went to Soviet Armenia about two years ago. 25X1X6
- [REDACTED] Comment. [REDACTED] Kandakjian and Artin Madoyan had charge of collecting and distributing arms to Armenian Communists which had been contributed by persons who had emigrated to Soviet Armenia. C-3.) 25X1A6a
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